

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting

March 10, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Deanne Williams, Chris Friend

Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock

Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)

Absent: Rick Smith (Excused), Sue Brinthaupt (Excused)

Guests: Mark Gould, Bob Newlun

The meeting was called to order by Sheila Dilmore at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Mark Gould was introduced as a prospective candidate to the Parks Commission. He is here to familiarize himself with the commission and its functions before he makes a formal commitment and request to join the commission.
- II. Bob Newlun was introduced and presented his item for consideration:
Regarding the cake wheel function at Community Days: Bob works closely with Norma Nevens and have been running the cake wheel as part of the senior's event for over 11 years. Bob keeps a current mailing of seniors in the community and Norma has been involved in all aspects including soliciting gift certificates and contributions from community businesses. Norma would like to step down from intense involvement using this year as a "transition" year to integrate a new person(s) for the tasks involved. Very comprehensive records have been kept since 1999 on businesses that have donated, mailing lists of citizens, monies donated as well as other contributions, and thank-yous. Bob's intent is to expand the mailing lists to involve other community citizens in this particular event not just seniors. This event has been fundamental involving the parks in the community – giving proceeds from the event directly to maintenance and repairs of the parks.

Marcia asked if Bob could tell us approximately how much time is involved in the organization of this event. Sheila indicated that with the amount of work involved it might take two or three people to replace Norma as she has been a very dependable and integral part of the event.

The Commission will give consideration and recommendations to manage this request.

- III. Sheila has received a written resignation from Beth Dunning. The Parks Commission recommends this be accepted.
- IV. Parks Re-assignment: As a component of the Commission, each member is assigned parks to keep an eye on and report to DPW any items noted that need attention.
- V. Sheila indicated she has been contacted by the Big Flats Plant of Corning Glass who are interested in purchasing the last bench in Community Park Extension. Details are still being worked out.

- VI. Cinderella Softball: Liz Farr Pavilion Dedication: Sheila has been in touch with Jen Perry and opening day is May 9th. Details of the ceremony are still being worked out – but Liz Farr’s family will be sent invitations for the dedication.
- VII. Larry indicated there is a softball group interested in using the field associated with TAB church – they would like to be able to use it and are willing to be responsible for care and maintenance of the field.
- VIII. Larry has been contacted by Laura Fleming, as a community representative for the Eat Well Play Hard childhood obesity prevention initiative of the New York State Department of Health, www.eatwellplayhard.org. Again this year Big Flats will participate in the program entitled “Hunt for the Gold Shoes” at Community Park Walking Trail. The dates for this program are: April 20 – May 16. More information can be found on the website.
- IX. Larry updated the members on the following:
- Cooper’s Pavilion – a new concrete floor will be done this spring – the first reservation for this pavilion is July.
- CPE: The old concession has been moved and temporary service will be connected. Construction for the new concession is still scheduled for the spring.
- Whitney Park: at this point we are continuing to keep it mowed – but hopefully will be putting in a parking lot (using millings) this spring also.
- X. Marcia mentioned the Sperr Memorial Park dedication on March 1st and it was well-attended with a reception at the Community Center following.
- XI. Shelly will put together a listing of parks, bylaws, rules and regulations for Mark. He will be submitting his letter of interest to join the Parks Commission.
- XII. Over the next two meetings the Commission will be doing the annual tour of the Parks.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held April 21, 2009 at 6 p.m. – Members are to meet at the Town Hall parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting

April 21, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Deanne Williams, Rick Smith,
Sue Brinthaupt, Mark Gould
Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock
Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)
Absent: Chris Friend

The committee meeting was scheduled at 6 p.m. to begin the annual tour of the Parks. The members went Golden Glow to review condition of the park and it began to rain heavily; therefore the committee decided to convene a meeting in the Town Hall Building.

- I. Marcia and Larry noted that last week the Cub Scouts worked on Rails to Trails to clean up the site and a truck was provided to haul away debris and rocks. Other ideas were discussed for volunteer work for the cub scouts and/or Eagle Scout badges.
- II. Sheila raised a complaint she received regarding the fence in Community Park bordering Main Street apparently there has been dog walkers in the area and the mess is evident. It was reiterated that there are doggie bags in the parks and signs are posted asking dog owners to pick up after the pets. Also, Big Flats Times will have a article regarding the disapproval.
- III. Sheila indicated the Big Flats Plant of Corning Glass are interested in purchasing the last bench at Community Park Extension as well as adopting the two planters at the entrance to take care of for the season.
- IV. The Minier Boat Launch renaming was discussed: the NYS DEC would like to be invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially rename as it is part of a larger trail system. The Committee decided to do this event on May 9th – the same day as the Liz Farr dedication at the Cinderella Softball Opening. The Boat Launch ceremony will be at 10 a.m. and Liz Farr dedication is scheduled for 12 noon. Sheila will talk to the Big Flats American Legion Auxiliary for a Flag donation for the softball field. Sheila will also speak with Sheila French to see if she'd like to make the presentation at the dedication. Larry will speak to the school system regarding borrowing their portable audio system.
- V. The Commission will continue with the annual tour of the Parks for the next meeting:
May 19, 2009 at 6 p.m. – Members are to meet at the Town Hall parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting

May 19, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Rick Smith, Chris Friend,
Sue Brinthaup, Mark Gould
Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock
Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)
Excused: Deanne Williams

The committee meeting was scheduled at 6 p.m. to continue the annual tour of the Parks. However, agenda items were presented so a regular meeting was held.

- I. Sheila opened the meeting and Marcia disclosed a proposal given to her by the Susan Stage-Derrick for a fundraising 3K/10K run at Sperr Memorial Park. Proposing a fundraising event at a town park is against the town policy (Resolution # 222-80) with the exception of Community Days, Little League and Cinderella. The policy has been broken down into a criteria checklist to process fund raising events in parks.

The commission reviewed this form, and with two minor changes, approved the checklist unanimously. Therefore, when the parks commission reviews a proposal, if all items on the criteria checklist are met, the parks commission will recommend to the town board for approve the event.

The commission then moved on to discussing the proposal for the fundraising run at Sperr. Mark raised the issue of insurance / liability. The insurance was not mentioned in the proposal. Larry will go back to Susan for proof of insurance.

Discussion was also held regarding the Sperr Memorial Park Committee as a charitable entity. The technical definition of charitable organization was reviewed: *"In the U.S. a charitable organization is one that is organized and operated for purposes that are beneficial to the public interest....practice and detailed definition of charitable is determined by the requirements of state law in which the organization operates, and the requirements for federal tax relief set by the IRS."* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charitable_organization.)

It was the consensus of the commission that Sperr Memorial Park is beneficial to the public interest and the funds raised should be directly used for enhancement, improvements or upgrades to the park. Sheila also indicated that the Sperr committee was proposing receiving non-profit status with a federal **501C3**. Rick stated if the committee's endeavors reduce the town's need to use resident's tax funding to spend on the park, it was a worthwhile event. It therefore meets criteria #3b. Rick stated that town parks are there for people's usage, and not for bureaucrats to make up regulations to keep people out of them. Sue raised some concerns discussed with Marcia.

Therefore, the criteria checklist was reviewed with regard to the Sperr Committee's proposal, and if the insurance liability criteria is met, as well as the funds raised directly used for enhancement, improvement or upgrades to the park, a vote was taken as follows:

Mark – yes
Rick – yes
Chris – yes
Sue – abstain

II. Challenger League: Each year the Challenger League uses the fields and Jacobus Pavilion for an annual event involving local children as well as children brought in from other towns and cities. However, the league believes they should not have to pay the fee to reserve the pavilion. This small fee helps to cover costs associated with trash removal, clean-up, park labor, etc. A vote was taken: the commission agreed unanimously that the Challenger League should pay the fee to reserve the pavilion for their event.

III. Sheila asked Larry if he had any new business to raise:

He stated he is in the process of receiving quotes for the concrete pad for Cooper's Pavilion floor.

IV. Marcia noted that the Town's Open House is scheduled for June 14th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Commission will continue with the annual tour of the Parks for the next meeting:

June 16, 2009 at 6 p.m. – Members are to meet at the Town Hall parking lot.

Sheila adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Notes

June 16, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Deanne Williams
Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock
Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)
Absent or Excused: Sue Brinthaup Mark Gould, Rick Smith, Chris Friend

Parks Commission members toured the following parks:

Golden Glow (first visited on 04/21/09)
Harris Hill Manor (first visited on 04/21/09)
Hillview
Fawn Acres

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Notes

July 22, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Chris Friend, Sue Brinthaup, Deanne Williams
Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock
Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)
Excused: Mark Gould, Rick Smith

Parks Commission members toured Ponderosa and Barnes Hill Park.

Larry raised the issue to the committee at Ponderosa that there is a parking issue between the resident houses; especially during the winter months.

Larry announced that he was approached by Jim Pfiffer from Friends of Chemung River regarding building a pavilion at the Bottcher's boat launch site in 2010. They are currently in the process of building a pavilion in the City of Elmira at the Grove Street boat launch site built with donations from the community. Larry suggested to Jim that he contact Big Flats Code & Planning as this is a flood way. Larry will keep Parks members updated.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting

August 18, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Deanne Williams, Mark Gould, Rick Smith,
Sue Brinthaup

Town Board Members: Marcia Hudock

Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)

Absent: Chris Friend

Guests: Peter Addiego, William Addiego

The meeting was called to order by Sheila Dilmore at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Peter and William Addiego were introduced to the commission. Peter is an Eagle Scout and presented a project to purchase and set up a gazebo at the end of Rails to Trails area across from the Wesleyan Church on Maple Street. The gazebo will be purchased with funds by the Beagles' Club (purchased from the Amish Workshop) and the size is 10 ft. x 16 ft. Peter presented pictures of the gazebo and the intended area. He did request the town to level the ground and provide gravel. Peter will also do landscaping in the area.

Larry suggested to Peter that he check to see if there are any code restrictions regarding flood-way/flood-plain areas. He directed Peter to speak with Tim Gilbert from the Town's Code & Planning office. Larry also suggested that any landscaping be a low maintenance form and perhaps do some research in that area. Other ideas regarding areas to have the gazebo were discussed. Some options were: up on the trail itself; the Tranquil Gardens in Community Park Extension, the original Community Park.

Peter will set up a meeting with Larry after contacting the code office.

- II. Sheila discussed the issue of adding a slide to Fawn Acres Park. During Parks tour two residents approached Sheila requesting the addition of a slide and this request has been brought to the commission previously. Some investigation regarding companies and pricing were distributed to the commission. Sheila recommendation is a 5 ft. "Super Slide" from School Outfitters. This is the lowest quote received at \$1657.58. Preparation for placing the slide (concrete, etc.) will be done by the Dept. of Public Works. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the commission to order the slide for Fawn Acres from School Outfitters.
- III. Sheila brought in pictures from Reynolds Park, Barnes Hill Park and Fawn Acres Park for the permanent record.
- IV. Rick asked Larry about the 2009 and 2010 parks budget. Larry stated the 2010 budget was submitted in draft form as flat numbers. The budget for A7110.0200 is \$23,000. Rick asked if a large part of this year's budget was being used for the Cinderella Concession; Larry replied that the Cooper's Pavilion concrete floor was done also. Sheila remarked that the improvements in Cooper's are very noticeable to the public.

Rick suggested we revisit the Parks' Commission previous "wish list."

Suggestions were made to add playground equipment to Community Park Extension (nearby to Liz Farr Pavilion); updating some existing playground equipment and the addition of another Pavilion at Community Park Extension. (The original design was for three in a 'cluster'). Larry stated that after the septic system design is complete for the new concession stand perhaps a location for playground equipment could be revisited. All agreed playground equipment for the extension is a high priority.

- V. Mark informed Larry that the pond in Community Park is looking rather nasty and he has not seen anyone fishing there in quite awhile.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held September 15, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Diliberto

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting
September 15, 2009

Since there are no agenda items brought forth, and it is Primary Election Day - Parks Commission Meeting is cancelled for Tuesday, September 15th.

Noteworthy: The slide discussed from last meeting was ordered, has arrived, and was installed at Fawn Acres Park last week; mulch is still needed to complete the project.

The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, October 20th.

Big Flats Parks Commission Meeting

October 20, 2009

Members Present: Sheila Dilmore, Deanne Williams, Mark Gould, Rick Smith,
Sue Brinthaup
Present: Larry Wagner, (DPW), Shelly Diliberto, (Secretary)
Absent: Chris Friend, Marcia Hudock
Guests: Joyce Hyatt, R.N. – Chemung Valley Rural Health Network
Cassie Coombs – Director Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness

The meeting was called to order by Sheila Dilmore at 7:00 p.m.

Sheila introduced Joyce and Cassie to the members. Joyce spoke regarding the issue that was raised with the Town Board regarding smoke-free parks and playgrounds. She explained that Cassie and herself would assist the town with developing park and/or playground policies. The elements presented were: role-modeling behaviors for children, unsightly butt litter, hazards of smoking and the health issues and the catchphrase "*Young Lungs at Play*." She presented a Chemung County survey that indicated 88.4% of those surveyed were in favor of smoke-free playgrounds.

Mark asked Joyce exactly what assistance is provided? Cassie indicated there would be assistance on developing a policy based on other models, and assistance with the announcement and literature release, as well as signage. She also stated that the policy is "self-policed;" meaning the policy itself would give others a reference to use to request smokers to move or put out their cigarettes.

Sheila thanked Joyce and Cassie for their information and explained the commission must talk about the issue as a group.

After group discussion, it was a unanimous decision to not make a recommendation to the Town Board as the group does not believe we need a non-smoking policy since smoking in our parks / playgrounds does not present an issue.

Updates:

Cinderella Concession Stand: Larry presented an update on the new concession: Concrete slab is complete – block is being laid for the walls – target date of completion is for Softball season.

Speer Memorial Park: New signage is complete and dedication to the family was done.

Lowe Pond: Rich Falls is working with the Historical Society on signage commemorating Cornelius Lowe.

Fawn Acres Slide: Andy Gillette sent a Thank You for the new slide with a picture of his daughter playing on it.

Jackson Farm Basin: Continuing work on Sing Sing Creek Detention basin – controlled by grant and working on engineering design.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held **March 15, 2010 at 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Diliberto